


The  
Roosevelt Bears  
visit  
WEST POINT



# The Roosevelt Bears visit WEST POINT



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The day was fine and the Bears were free  
To take a River boat to see  
The Palisades and Tarrytown  
And to view the Hudson up and down.



A request had come from a young cadet  
Of West Point school, whom the Bears had met,  
To dine at the West Point Army Mess,  
And to see the boys in their army dress,  
And to sleep on an army barracks cot,  
And to try their luck at a target shot,

And to ride bare-backed in the hurdle shute,  
Or to join a band with drum and flute,  
Or to hear good stories of army fights  
After taps are sounded to put out the lights.  
So they sent a wire to the cadet to say  
That they would call that very day.



*"To ride bare-backed in the hurdle shute, or join a band with drum and flute."*

They made the trip with but one mishap:  
The wind blew off a newsboy's cap  
As he walked around on the steamer deck  
Calling out the news of a railway wreck  
And selling his papers and chewing gum  
To the crowd of tourists "going some."

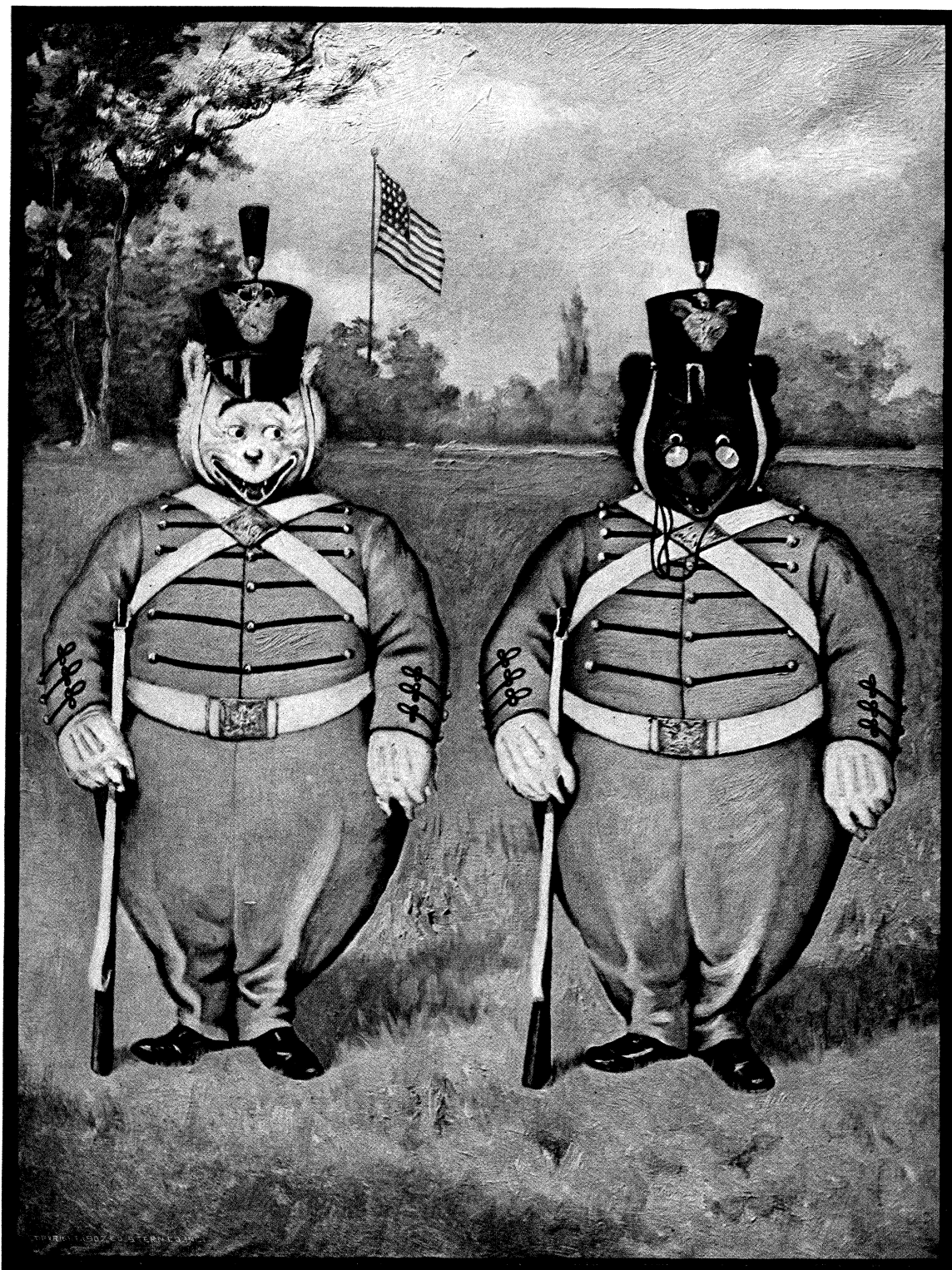
TEDDY-G made a jump as he saw it  
go  
And he and the cap went down  
below.  
Like a diver he struck the water right  
And quick as a wink was out of  
sight.

"Man's overboard," was called aloud;  
And a cheer went up from the tourist  
crowd  
As they saw in the water in a little  
while  
The face of a bear with a pleasant  
smile.

The boat was stopped and a rope  
thrown out,  
And in answer to the captain's shout  
TEDDY-G called back, "The water's  
fine;  
I've got the bait; pull in your line."

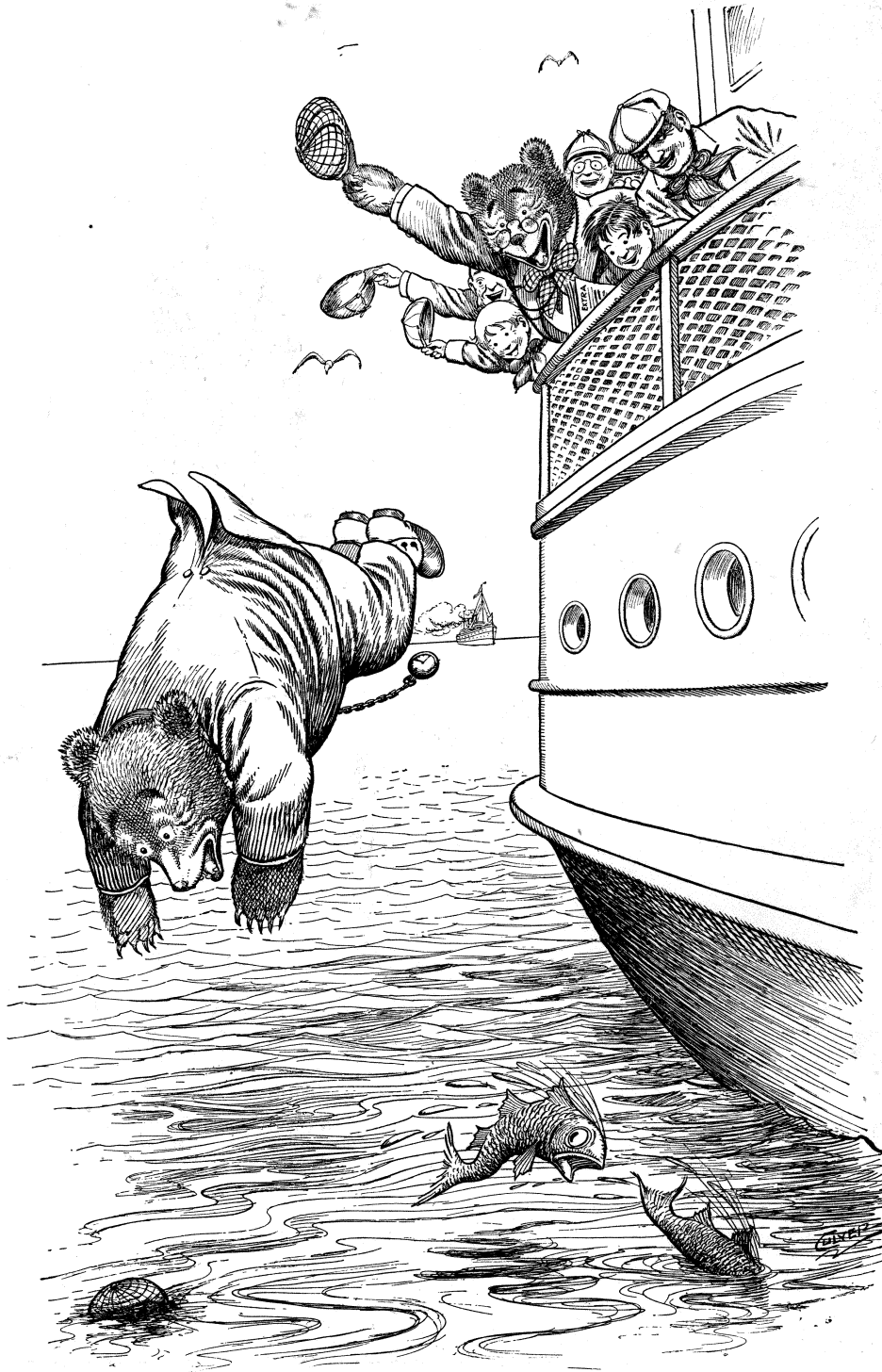






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"Dressed and ready for hours of fun,  
With cavalry horse or battery gun."



*"Like a diver he struck the water right and quick as a wink was out of sight."*



It didn't take them long to get  
TEDDY-G on board, all dripping wet;  
The children laughed, he looked so queer,  
With the newsboy's cap hung on his ear.  
He bowed to tourists left and right  
And said something about his appetite.  
He asked the steward to bring on some meals  
As the steamer band played "Silver Heels."





*"The children laughed, he looked so queer, with the newsboy's cap hung on his ear."*





At West Point landing the  
Bears were met  
By a double carriage with the  
young cadet  
And a cavalry mount to escort  
them round  
To see the buildings on the  
ground.  
They drove about for an hour  
or less,  
Then went to their barrack  
rooms to dress  
In soldier suits for the evening  
mess.  
TEDDY-B said he'd be  
Colonel's aide  
And inspect the boys on dress  
parade,  
While TEDDY-G said he'd  
march or stand  
As leader of the soldier band.

The parade dismissed and the supper through,  
The Bears had nothing else to do  
But to roll themselves in barrack wraps  
And to put out the lights at the sound of taps.

At reveille at six next day  
They were wide awake and  
bright and gay  
And dressed and ready for  
hours of fun  
With cavalry horse or battery  
gun.

The boys had fun when  
TEDDY-B  
Rode a cavalry horse down a  
shute to see  
How to jump the walls and  
the hurdles take  
Without a tumble or balk or  
break.

The horse was tricky, but the  
Bear was game  
And he made him clear each  
thing that came,  
Whether wall or water or  
brush or bar.  
TEDDY-B would have tried  
a railway car

Or a barn or a tree or a load of hay  
Or any old thing that came in his way.  
The finest riding, the officers say,  
That was done at West Point for many a day.





TEDDY-G took his turn at soldier fun  
When he loaded and fired a battery gun.  
He charged in powder and cannon ball;  
"So simple," he said, "it's nothing at all."

He asked a cadet his hat to keep  
Till he stepped to the muzzle to take a peep  
To see if the ball was in all right,  
And if things in front were out of sight.  
What happened next no one can tell,  
TEDDY-G was lifted in air a spell



And whirled around so quick in space  
He didn't remember just what took place.  
"I caught that ball, all right," said he,  
When the officer questioned TEDDY-G;

"But I don't like catching balls like that;  
My place I think is at the bat.  
Next time you pitch don't throw so quick;  
You struck me like a load of brick."



Said the officer, "For bravery shown  
We'll give you a title all your own;  
You can drop your Harvard L and D  
And be known as Colonel TEDDY-G."

The boys got out the fife and drum  
And made things all around them hum  
As they marched ahead of the Roosevelt Bears  
In army step down the flight of stairs

To take the ferry at half-past four  
Across the river to the other shore,  
Where a train was waiting to take them down  
The eastern bank and back to town.



"Let us go to-morrow," said TEDDY-G,  
"And a first-class game of baseball see;  
That ball they pitched at West Point school  
Had hardly time enough to cool;  
It struck my paws so fiery hot  
I thought for a minute that I was shot."